Funds for Repair of NHs

1057. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "No direct NH funds for States" as reported in the 'Statesman' dated the 3rd February, 2003;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken a decision to provide funds for repair of National Highways through Drawing and Disbursing Officer and not directly to the State Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any reports of diversion of the funds by the State Governments have been received; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Direct Payment Procedure (DPP) has been adopted with the consent of the respective States/Union Territory (UT) in 13 States and 1 UT. As opposed to DPP, in the reimbursement system of payment, the instances of late issue of 'Letter of Credit' by some State Governments were noticed. This has delayed the payments to the implementing agencies and in turn has affected the physical progress of works resulting in surrender of funds. To tackle the problem, Government of India has taken a decision to adopt Direct Payment Procedure for National Highways works. Other States have been requested to give their consent for adoption of this system.

Improving riding quality in Bihar

1058. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal amounting to Rs. 494.29 lakhs for improving the riding quality in km. 107 to 125 km. Bodh-Gaya-Dobhi section from the State Government of Bihar;